

Lafdh (the Utterance) and Mana (Meaning) of La-ilaha Illallah

Know that; may Allah Ta'ala have mercy upon you, La-ilaha illallah is a great word and its loyalty is prevailing. Whoever holds onto it will be hold (saved) and whoever devotes himself to it will be devoted (saved). Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Who says that there is no god worthy of being worshiped except Allah and rejects everything what is worshipped beside Allah, his property and blood became inviolable, and their affairs rest with Allah (Azza wa Jalla)." (Muslim, Hadith no: 23)

What this Hadith discloses is: La-ilaha illallah has both Lafdh (the utterance) and Mana (meaning). However people are in three Firqah (groups/sects) regarding it.

The (first) Firqah; say it and realized it, know that it has meaning and act upon it and (also know that) it has nullifiers and abstain from it.

And the (second) Firqah; seem to utter it in Dhahir (apparent), they adorn their Dhahir with the statement while penetrating Kufr and Shakk (doubt) in them.

And the (third) Firqah; they utter it but do not act upon accordingly to its meaning and commit what negate/nullify it. Regarding them (Allah says):

"Those whose efforts goeth astray in this worldly life, while they thought and yet they reckon that they do good work?" (al-Kahf 18/104)

The first Firqah is Najiyah (saved) and they are the true Mu'minun (pl., Mu'min; believers). The (second) Firqah is the Munafiqun (pl, Munafiq; hypocrites) and the (third) are Mushrikun (pl, Mushrik). La-ilaha illallah is a fortress. However they fight against it with catapults of rejection and destroy its walls and their enemies entered upon them, take away the meaning from them and left them its appearance. It was narrated in the Hadith:

"Verily, Allah does not look to your appearance nor to your bodies but He looks to your hearts and your Amaal (deeds)." (This was narrated with

slightly difference of wording by Muslim (Hadith no: 2564) and Ibn Ma'ajah (Hadith no: 4282) from Abi Hurayrah (radiyallahu anh)

They take away the meaning of La-ilaha illallah and nothing else left with them other than that the letters that they utter with their tongues which is mentioning the fortress and not the fortress itself. As mentioning the fire does not burn, as mentioning the water does not drown, as mentioning the bread does not satisfy, as mentioning the sword does not cut and mentioning the fortress does not protect.

Qawl (statement) is peel and Mana is essence. Qawl is Sadaf (oyster) and Mana is pearls. What is the benefit of the Peel without essence? What is the benefit of the oyster without its jewel? The state of La-ilaha illallah and its meaning is as the state of Ruh (spirit) in a body. As body without Ruh has no benefit, the Kalimah (statement i.e., La-ilaha illallah) has no benefit without its Mana.

Muhammad ibn Abd'il Wahhab
ad-Durar'us Saniyyah, 2/112-113